

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-25 were pending. By the present response, claims 1-25 have been amended, claims 1, 3 and 4 canceled, and claims 26-43 have been added. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 2 and 5-43 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims, and the specification, page 3, lines 24-25 and page 6, lines 14-24.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1-25 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-25 have been amended to address the objection. Specifically, the preamble has been amended. Further, claim 1 has been amended to recite the combustion of the particles. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph on the grounds set forth in paragraph 5 of the Official Action.

By the present response, applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 in a manner which addresses the above-noted rejection. Specifically, claim 1 now recites "combusting

the particles and features of claim 7 have been amended to address antecedent basis.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 5, 9-10, 22, and 24 contain allowable subject matter, as noted in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Official Action. By the present, claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form and is the independent claim to claims 2 and 6-25, which are therefore also allowable for at least the same reason as claim 5.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-21, 23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,907,487 to Cooper et al. (hereafter "*Cooper et al.*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 7 of the Official Action.

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 11-19, 23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,065,919 to Eknayan (hereafter "*Eknayan*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 8 of the Official Action.

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 11-19, 23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,294,141 to Twigg et al. (hereafter "*Twigg et al.*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 9 of the Official Action.

All of these rejections are moot in light of the present amendments which cancel claims 1 and 3-4 and change the dependency of each of the remaining rejected claims, directly or indirectly, to depend from allowable claim 5. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 26-43 have been added. Claims 26-37 recite features originally present in the claims, but have been represented as dependent claims to address informalities, such as nested ranges. Claims 37-43 recite different compositions for the oxidation catalyst, such as cerium, iron, cerium and iron, and oxides thereof. The features of the references relied upon by the Examiner in paragraphs 7-9 of the Official Action do not include cerium, iron, cerium and iron, and oxides thereof as an oxidation catalyst. Further and favorable action on these new claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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